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A Letter FROM A FRIEND IN SPAIN, TO A Friend in London.

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A LETTER

From a Friend in SPAIN, to a Friend in LONDON, &c.

SIR,

YOurs bearing Date the 5th. of *January* laſt, came ſafe to my Hands, wherein amongſt other things, your Requeſt is, That I ſhould give you a particular Accompt of the Remarques of my Travels, which indeed have been ſo Extraordinary, that ſhould I Bury them in Oblivion, I ſhould not only juſtly Deſerve the Name of an ungrateful Perſon, but you would likewiſe want much of that Satisfaction that I hope theſe Preſents may afford you, onely by the way let me tell you, I ſhall not ſo far beguile your Sences as to deliver the leaſt Syllable of an Untruth to indulge your Fancy, but deliver the naked truth Word for Word, as I my ſelf have been an Eye-witneſs of it, and not onely my ſelf, but likewiſe my Two Fellow-Travellers, Mr. *B*——*s*, and Mr. *M*——*d*, perſons whom you very well know, and whoſe Credit may paſs to confirm a ſtranger Relation then this, without being Taxed with the leaſt ſuſpition of Fallacy. But not to de-

tain your Expectations longer from what I design to write, and I presume you (by this time) eagerly expect to hear, This it is.

TO omit the Customary Casualties of a Troublesome Voyage, since nothing Extraordinary happened, I shall neither trouble my self, nor tyre your Patience with a frivilous recital of those things which you have sufficiently Experienced in your many Voyages; But only tell you, That on the Third Day of *December* last, we safely arrived at *Genoa*, where after the Customary stay for *Product*, (in those cases usual) we had the Welcome Liberty of setting foot on Shore at the Place aforesaid; but our Joynt-Concerns lay some Fifty *Italian*-Leagues up higher in the Countrey, so that at the Importunity of my Two Friends, we left *Genoa* Three Hours afore Sun-sett, in Company with Four *Spaniards* Bound for *Sevil*: That Night we designed to reach a small Town about Nine *English*-Miles off, but through the unfortunate tyring of my poor bejaded Beast, we were forced to jogg on in a very dull Foot-pace, so that we were belated before we had got full Six Miles of our Nine, which being perceived by the rest of our Company, they very generously made a Proposal to procure Quarters for us at a House belonging to a Person of worth not above half a Miles distance from the place where we then were; and did likewise assure us, They would not leave our Company until they had seen us safe at our Journeys end; by the way as we went, they were much commending the noble generosity of our intended Host, by informing us what extraordinary oblieging Treatments he customarily bestowed on Strangers. This Discourse some-

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what diverted our tyerſome Journey; for before we came thither, it became Diſputable between my poor Foundred-Jade and my ſelf, whether I ſhould carry him, or he me. (for you muſt underſtand it was none of the Feminine Sex.) In ſhort, after a very troubleſome Travel, we came within view of the Houſe above ſpecified; where we were no ſooner arriv'd, but were immediately attended by ſeveral Servants in very decent (though not gaudy) Liveries, who Uſher'd us into a large Hall, till ſuch time they had acquainted their Maſter of our arrival, who upon enquiry underſtood by his Servants Relation, that we were Three *Engliſh*-Men and Four *Spaniards* deſtitute of Lodging; he thereupon orders his Servants to tell us. As for the *Engliſh* (who were Strangers) they ſhould be very Welcome, but as for the *Spaniards*, they were not ſo unacquainted with the Countrey but they knew where to go for Quarters: upon receipt of this Meſſage, the *Spaniards* took a Friendly farewel, knowing how impoſſible it was for us to accompany them further: In ſhort, after ſome ceremonies paſt on both parts, we parted, though not without ſome trouble on both ſides, for I think really they were much taken with our Company, and I aſſure you we were not leſs taken with their oblieging carriage. Being thus parted, we were introduced into a very ſpacious Room one ſtory high, where we were no ſooner entred, and ſeated by a very good Fire, then the ſudden approach of a Perſon whoſe looks were convincing Teſtimonies of his ſorrow, and whoſe Garb and attendance beſpoke him no leſs then Maſter of the Houſe, approached near us; his ſudden approach and gentle demeanour oblieged us to the Civility of entertaining him with thoſe becoming demonſtrations of reſpect that his

quality (to our apprehenſions) deſerved, and time convinced us we were in no error: For after he had treated us with an extraordinary Reſpect and Entertainment, and that we had indifferently Warmed us both without and within, In came ſeveral Servants, who in a very becoming manner, and with much ſilence laid a Cloath, and ſpread the Table with cold Meats, which was no ſooner done, but, inſtead of an invitation to eat, in comes a Lady with two to ſupport her Train, and very ſplendidly attended, all in Mourning, which Garb could not ſo blemiſh her incomparable Beauty, but it left a ſevere impreſſion on our Fancies, too too charming to be ſuddenly expulſed: this fair Object ſtruck us into no ſmall aſtoniſhment, not only by her charming feature, but likewiſe her Noble Deportment, but much more we began to admire, when after ſhe had ſaluted us with an incomparable Curteſie, ſhe approached the Table, and one of her Retinue preſented her with a very rich Knife and Fork, with which ſhe only cut one Morſel of cold Meat then on the Table, put it in her Mouth, and with a melancholly ſilence, full of Reſpect, makes her exit. *SIR*, I ſhall not blame you if your admiration at this Novel Diſcourſe ſtrike you with that amazement which ſo unexpected an accident ſurprized us withal: all the faculties of our ſoul were too weak a guard to force a ſilence from us: We were all at the ſame inſtant reſolved to know the full intreigue of the buſineſs: In order thereto we humbly requeſted our noble Hoſt to unriddle the myſtery ſo lately viſible before our Eyes. After ſome reluctency and pretended unwillingneſs, he requeſts our attention, (which was before ſufficiently prepared) and ſeating himſelf in a poſture more Melancholly then can poſſibly be expreſſed, with a heart-breaking ſigh begins

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this following Diſcourſe, Verbatim as is here Related, according to the beſt of my memory.

GENTLEMEN,

FOr leſs then ſuch neither your Garbs or Deportment beſpeak you to be:) It has been my unfortunate fortune to be poſſeſſed both of a plentiful eſtate, and a Beautiful Wife, of the former the whole Kingdom is acquainted, of the latter your own Eyes are your Witneſſes, who have lately ſeen the perſon I now ſpeak of, and of whom you are pleaſed to enquire, but as it ſeldome otherwiſe happens but the higher we ſtand, the lower we fall; ſo happened it to my miſerable ſelf, who can term my ſelf no other then *Fortunes Foot-Ball*, or the May-game of Chance, for moſt wretched Soul that I am, (bedewing his Cheeks at that Word with an inundation of Tears, and fetching a whole Volley of heart-breaking ſighs) I was hardly warm in the embraces of my Marriage-bed, before this treacherous Woman (for leſs I cannot call her) beſtowed that kindneſs which only appertained to me as her Husband, upon the very baſeſt of my Servants, the moſt deformed of the Grooms of my Stable: it was my hard hap to render my grief unutterable, to be the Spectator of my own ſhame, where my own eyes were no ſooner the Witneſſes of my own ſhame, then my hands became the Executioner of that treacherous Varlet who had thus abuſed me; I muſt confeſs I was then, and am ſtill ſo far from pardoning an offence of ſo foul a tincture, that I only repriev'd my Wife that I might reſerve her to a future puniſhment, not being ſo raſh in proſecuting my revenge, as an other leſs Rational Man then my ſelf might poſſibly have been. Gentlemen, in a word, I took the dead Corps, and by the aſſiſtance of

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my Servants, cauſed him to be well Baked, and ſufficiently ſeaſoned with Preſervatives, to keep him ſo long as whilſt my Wife might bury him in her Belly, whom ſhe thought a fit Partner for her Bed, and accordingly that Diſh of which you juſt now ſaw her taſte, was the remainer of her Adulterer, I do not confine her to eat more then a mouthful at a meal, and Two Years ſpace hath reduced the whole Body to a Head, which as ſoon as ſhe hath eaten, ſhe muſt expect to dye as well as her Paramour. Gentlemen, this in ſhort is the Truth of the Relation, and I hope no reaſonable man can gain-ſay the ſeverity of my revenge. And here he ſtopt.

SIR, In ſhort, this is the truth of this his Relation, at which we were ſo deeply affected, that we knew not which moſt to pitty, the Gentleman, or the miſerable Lady; we endeavoured to diſſuade him from her murther by all means poſſible, but the more we endeavoured it, the more averſe he was to our propoſals. We had very extraordinary entertainment, and were friendly diſmiſt in the morning. I have another more ſtrange Relation to give you, which I ſhall omit until the next opportunity, in the mean time ſubſcribing my ſelf, as truly I am

SIR,
Your Real Friend to Serve You,
J. B.

Cales, *March* 3*d*.
1678.

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